

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-12 and 15 remain active in this case, Claim 8 having been amended by the present Amendment, Claims 1, 2, 13 and 14 having been previously canceled and Claims 16-20 having been previously withdrawn from consideration as directed to a non-elected invention.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parris et al (USPN 5,604,700) in view of Venkatesan et al (USPN 5,736,435) and further in view of Yu (USPN 6,534,373 B1) and Claims 3-7, 9-12 and 15 were allowed.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of Claims 3-7, 9-12 and 15. To expedite examination and early patent issuance, Claim 8 has been amended herewith to more clearly patentably define over the cited prior art. To that end, amended Claim 8 recites that each memory cell of the claimed semiconductor memory device includes first and second MIS-type partially depleted transistors opposite in conduction type from each other, and that a connection node of the first and second MIS-type partially depleted transistors is in a floating state. Support for the amendment to Claim 8 is provided at page 6, lines 9-11 of the original specification. No new matter has been added.

Turning now to the references cited in the rejection of Claim 8, Parris et al disclose a non-volatile memory cell 10 having two transistors. However, the connection node 19 of two transistors is an output node (see column 2, lines 40-44) and is naturally connected to other interconnections, etc.

In contrast, referring to Fig. 1 and the description at page 6, lines 9-11 of the specification, the node f according to the claimed invention, that corresponds to the node 19

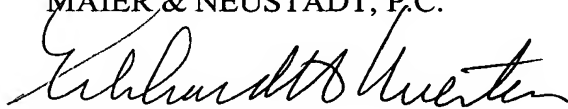
of Parris et al, is floating, that is, the node f is not connected to any elements. In view of this distinction stated in amended Claim 8, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 8 clearly distinguishes over Parris et al.

Similarly, neither Venkatasen et al nor Yu remedy the noted deficiency in Parris et al, and accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 8, the sole claim in issue, patentably defines over the references of record.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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Eckhard H. Kuesters  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413 -2220

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